CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A method of trimming blow molded products while in the mold, said method comprising:

placing a parison between two mold halves of a mold;

moving the two mold halves together to form a cavity defined by the interior of the two mold halves and a cutting portion of a cutter, said cutting portion of said cutter substantially conforming to the shape of the portion of the interior of one of the two mold halves adjacent to said cutting portion and enclosing a portion of the parison within said cavity when the two mold halves move together;

blowing gas under pressure into the parison to expand the parison within said mold and thereby form a blow molded product;

using a vacuum to hold a portion of the product adjacent to the cutting portion against the interior of the mold;

trimming a portion of said product while it is in the mold and being held by said vacuum by moving the cutter across and through the cavity and across the portion of the product to be cut;

separating the mold halves; and

removing the trimmed product from the mold.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said gas is air.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein a slot plugging member conforming to

the interior of the other mold half is moved when the cutter is moved across and through the cavity.

4. An apparatus for trimming molded plastic products while still in the mold, said apparatus comprising:

a first mold half having a first cavity and a first slot disposed in the first mold half;

a second mold half having a second cavity for mating with the first cavity and a second slot disposed in the second mold half;

a cutter slidably disposed in a first slot in the first mold half and having a first position and a second position, one end of the cutter conforming generally to a shape of an interior wall of the first cavity in the first position thereof whereby a plastic will be prevented from flowing into the first slot;

a slot blocking member slidably disposed in a second slot in the second mold half and having a first position and a second position, one end of the slot blocking member being disposed in the second slot in the first position thereof and substantially conforming to a shape of an interior wall of the second cavity in said first position thereof whereby plastic will substantially be prevented from flowing into the second slot;

a first mechanism for biasing the cutter to the first position thereof,

a second mechanism for biasing the slot blocking member to the first position thereof;

a third mechanism for moving the cutter to the second position thereof and causing the slot blocking member to move in the second slot to the second position of

the slot blocking member;

vacuum vent holes in an interior portion of at lest one of said mold half cavities adjacent at least one of said slots; and

vacuum means attached to said vent holes for holding the plastic covering said vent holes to the interior portion while said cutter is cutting the plastic.

5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said vent holes are on opposite sides of said first and second slot.